

THE Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival
of Religion in Great Britain and America.

Saturday MARCH 24. 1743. 4. \$ N^o. 56.

The Rev. Mr. PARK'S Account of the Progress of
Religion at WESTERLY, &c. finished.

THEY cleave to the LORD with Purpose of Heart ;
they are diligent in attending the Means of Grace,
in Season and out of Season ; they come rejoicing
in Hopes to meet the LORD and be refreshed with
the Word of his Grace. They have set up the *Worship* of
GOD in their Families ; praying and singing GOD'S Praise.
They have frequent private Meetings among themselves for
Prayer and Praise, and Conference ; particularly stated on
Sabbath-Day Evenings, and Wednesday Evenings. Upon the
last of which, I meet with them as often as the Providence of
GOD permits ; to pray with and for them, to read the
Word of GOD, and preach, and discourse with them upon
Matters of Importance which occur, as the LORD enables me.

And they drink in the Word of GOD, and grow up as
Calves of the Stall in gracious Experiences ; that consider-
ing the Disadvantages they are under by not knowing to read,
they may well be called experienced Christians ; and are
Examples of Faith, Patience, Love, Humility, and every
Grace of the SPIRIT of GOD. I have sometimes been
ashamed, and even confounded before GOD at myself, when
I have been among them, and heard their Conversation ;
heard them express their strong Confidence in GOD, and be-
held their Zeal, and fervent Charity among themselves :
their Love to their Minister, and all such as bring glad Tid-
ings of good Things unto them is singular.

They are abundant in their Endeavours to bring over such
as oppose themselves ; by setting forth the Evil of their Ways,

in which they used to walk with them, and the Comfort and Sweetness of a divine Life ; exhorting one another daily, while it is called to Day. And when they are assembled together for religious Worship, and GOD gives them a Sense of divine Things under the Word preached ; their Hearts are drawn out to plead with their Brethren to come over on the LORD's Side ; and with rejoicing I can sometimes stand still and see the Salvation of GOD.

Their Faith and Hope in GOD encourageth and quickeneth them in Duty to obtain the Promises of the good Things of this Life, and of that which is to come. So that there is among them a Change for good respecting the *outward* as well as the *inward* Man. They grow more decent and cleanly in their outward Dress, provide better for their Houfholds, and get clearer of Debt.

The most of the *Indians*, that are here in a Body, are come into the Kingdom of GOD ; and the most of those that are without are hopefully convinced that GOD is in the others of a Truth, and of the Necessity of their being Partakers of his Grace. And the LORD seems to be spreading forth his Power, to such as are scattered abroad.

The LORD has wrought so wonderfully and apparently among the *Indians*, that it greatly stops the Mouths of *Opposers*, and they are ready to gnash their Teeth and melt-away. They are forced universally to grant, that there is something good among the *Indians* ; if it does but hold. But alas ! *They seem to comfort themselves that they will return and be as bad and worse than ever.*

But as every Thing shall work together for Good to them that love GOD, to them that are called according to Purpose ; and all the Attempts of *Satan* against the LORD JESUS, are over-ruled to the Advancement of the REDEEMER's Kingdom : So I trust through Grace, this has been eventually for their *further Establishment* in Grace ; by providing a *Means* of *Warning* and *Watchfulness* to them, and of quickning me to greater Laboriousness among them ; fearing least the Throne of GOD's Glory should be disgraced, and the Enemies of GOD, and Despisers of his Grace should get Occasion to cry, *Aha, Aha, so would we have it.*

And GOD has been very gracious, and has even appeared remarkably for them ; in keeping them hitherto by his Power, through Faith, and I hope will unto Salvation. Infomuch that nothing of Scandal has appeared against them

them ; but they have approved themselves faithful in the Covenant of GOD, by having their Conversation as becomes the Gospel of CHRIST. And they appear living and lively towards GOD, hungering and thirsting after Righteousness, fearful of the least Sin ; being taught by Experience, that the least Sin known and continued in, separates from GOD, and causes him to hide his Face from them. Especially they have been kept perfectly free, for ought that has appeared to me, from the Sin of Drunkenness, the Sin which so easily begets them. Many of them say that they have no Desire after strong Drink, but loath it : others that a little Dram satisfies and refreshes them more than to guzzle it down as they used to do, & they do not lust after more. And I intreat the Prayers of all that love the LORD JESUS, particularly for them, that GOD would keep them from being tempted to Sin, or support and deliver them when tempted. They manifest great Sorrow of Heart, for their Brethren and Kins-Men according to the Flesh, when they hear of their drinking and quarrelling.

GOD appears leading them farther and farther into the Extensiveness of his gracious Covenant in CHRIST ; that they are bringing their Children more & more, & offering them up to the LORD. One with good old Abraham, offered up his whole Household ; his own Children and two adopted Children. And GOD seems to be pouring out his Blessing upon their Offspring : many little Ones seem full of Love and Sweetness. Ever since the Lord has been graciously among the Indians manifesting his Power and Glory ; they have been desirous of a School among them, that their Children and all such as can, might learn to read. And it has been what my Thoughts and Endeavours have been much exercised upon. But the Powers of Darkness have hitherto stood so in the Way, that but little has been done to Purpose. The honourable and reverend the COMMISSIONERS for the Indian Affairs have given Encouragement to assist in that Affair, if any Scheme was laid, and Matter proposed, which should be a Ground of Encouragement to them. But I have been nonplus'd in all my Attempts hitherto, to ripen such a Thing, so as to put it forward with any Prospect of Success. All that we have been able yet to do, is to employ an Indian Woman to keep School in a Wigwam, where she teaches a Number of the Children to read ; but it is vastly short of that Usefulness as is needful among them, and as it appears more than probable, it

would be, if there was a *School* erected among them. The End of my inserting this Account is, to excite such as wish the Prosperity of Zion to *Thoughtfulness*; and all such Endeavours as they may be directed unto, to assist in bringing this Design to pass, that the Work of GOD may not be hindered, by the Want of such a necessary Help.

This Sir, is as true and faithful Account of the LORD's Work, and the State of Religion among the *Indians* as I am able to give, and if you think it proper to give it a Place in your History, to the Praise of the Glory of GOD's Grace, and the Joy and Comfort of his People, I shall rejoice with you. And entreating the Prayers of all the People of GOD, that GOD would give me Wisdom and Faithfulness, and teach me in all Things how to behave in the House of GOD, which is the Church of the living GOD. I subscribe an unworthy Ambassador of the Lord.

JOSEPH PARK.

From viewing the joyful Progress of Christianity among the Aboriginal Natives in the West-Indies, it may be a suitable Transition to pass over the Atlantick Ocean thro' the Continents of Europe and Asia, in a strait Course about ten Thousand Miles, to view the happy Progress of the same Religion among the Aborigines at Bengal, Cormandel, Malabar, and the Islands of Ceylon, and Batavia in the East-Indies. And this we take from the Accounts printed at the End of the Bishop of Oxford's Sermon in May last at London, and publish'd at the Request of the Gentlemen Hearers belonging to the honourable SOCIETY for promoting CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE. And tho' these Accounts seem not to relate so much to the vital Part of Christianity as to the Doctrinal: yet considering this is the hopeful Way to the other; we doubt not but they will give our pious Readers some entertaining Prospect, and excite their joyful Praises for these small Beginnings of the REDEEMER's Kingdom in those Parts of the World, and their believing Prayers for its triumphant Progress both to the East and

West

West; until the happy Evangelists with their Hosts of Converts meet and join and rejoice together, the REDEEMER'S Conquest becomes complete, and his spreading Empire encompasses the Earth.

But that our Readers may have a clearer View of the said SOCIETY, as well as others we may have Occasion to mention hereafter; we may have observe, that at London there are these three great Companies for the Advancement of Religion, viz.

The (1) was founded by the English Parliament on July 27. 1649, establish'd by King Charles II. in 1661, and styl'd the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in New-England and the Parts adjacent in AMERICA. And as the Design is for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Indians only; this Society have all along had their Commissioners for the Indian Affairs, at Boston.

The (2d) was erected by K. William III. on June 16. 1701. and named the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. And their Endeavours are for promoting the Church of England in the English Colonies.

The (3d) is call'd the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge; which receiv'd their Name at the End of 1701. And their Design is (1) To promote & encourage the erecting of Charity Schools in all Parts of ENGLAND and Wales. (2) To disperse both at Home & Abroad, Bibles and other Tracts of Religion; and in general, to advance the Honour of God and the Good of Mankind, by promoting Christian Knowledge both at Home and in other Parts of the World, by the best Methods that should offer. And from this last Society, we give the Accounts as follows---

Beside these general Designs, the Society undertook in the Year 1710 the Management of such Charities as were, or should be put into their Hands, for the Support and Enlargement of the Protestant Mission, then maintained by the King of Denmark at Tranquebar in the East-Indies, for the Conversion

Conversion of the Heathen in those Parts. Accordingly they, from time to time, assisted the Missionaries there with Money, a Printing Press, Paper, and other Necessaries, (as they were enabled) till the Year 1728; when, upon a Proposal made by the Reverend Mr. *Schultze*, one of the *Danish* Missionaries, to remove to *Fort St. George*, and there begin a new Mission, for the Conversion of the Heathen at *Madras*, the Society engaged for the Support of the same, though at an Expence that did then far exceed their Ability, trusting to the Goodness and Blessing of Almighty GOD: which Expence has been since greatly increased by the Addition of two Missionaries; and will be more by such extraordinary Charges as must necessarily attend the Enlargement of the Mission to *Cudalore* near *Fort St. David*, (another *English* Settlement) which has been since made by the Society. However, the Society cheerfully rely upon the same wise and gracious Providence, which has hitherto wonderfully prospered this, and all other their Undertakings, to raise up such a true Christian Spirit, as will abundantly supply whatever Money shall be wanting to carry on so pious and glorious a Design, as that of enlarging the Kingdom of *Jesus Christ* upon Earth. But the present State of this Mission may be seen in the *Appendix* No. IV.

Which Account is as follows, viz.

In the Months of *June, July, August, & September*, 1742, the Society received several Letters from their Missionaries and Correspondents in *East India*; and by that from the Reverend Mr. *Schultze*, their Missionary at *Madras* near *Fort St. George*, dated the 29th of *January* 1741, 2. they hear, "That by the *Kent*, Captain *Robson*, he had received their Favour of *March* 30th 1741: but as the Ship did not touch at *Fort St. George*, none of the Goods sent over to the Mission were then come to him." He at the same time informs them, "That the *English* Mission there was in much the same State as the Year before: and that the Number of Children in the School, kept gratis, amounts to thirty." "That some of the Youths, who had been wholly instructed in that School, were now able to perform the Duty of Schoolmasters and Catechists; that three of them continued with him, and were assistant to him in one or other of these Respects: and that a fourth was gone upon the like Service to the Mission at *Tranquebar*." "That besides their Mission School

School in the *Malabarian Tongue*, they have begun to keep up a little *Portuguese* one for the poor Protestant Children that come from *Palliacatte* and *Sadras*. That a certain Native of *Borear*, near *Tranquebar*, together with his Wife, having been converted to Christianity by the Opportunities they met with at *Fort St. George*; and afterwards so far instructed as to be able to teach, and do the Duty of a Catechist, had been some Years with them in the Mission in that Capacity. But having a mind to go and see his Relations at *Tranquebar*, as soon as he came to *Nagapatnam*, the Dutch Minister there chose him to the same Office among the Black Christians in that Town." He concludes with Wishes "that it may please God to continue his Favours to the People in that Country, and enable the Society to be the Instruments thereof."

With this Letter, Mr. *Schultze* sends an Account of his Receipts and Disbursements for the Service of the Mission at *Madras*, for the Year 1741.

The Reverend *John Ernest Guister*, and *John Zachary Kiernander*, Missionaries at *Cudalore* near *Fort St. David's*, by their joint Letter of 8th September, 1741, signify; "That they had received, on the 24th of July, the Society's Favour of 6th February, 1741, 2. but none of a later Date, either from *England* or *Germany*; the latter Ships not being then arrived. "That they had now sent a Journal of their Proceedings for the first six Months of that Year; together with the Minutes of their Conferences for that Time. And that as one of the Ships was appointed to sail from *Madras* in *October* next, they would write again; expecting, before that Time, to receive the Money and other Things designed them from *Europe*." Accordingly, They in two other Letters, both dated the 19th January 1741, 2. acquaint the Society, "That the Favour of theirs of Mar. 30. 1741. was then come safe to them, along with the Invoice: and, that tho' the Ships had been so long retarded by Wind and Weather, yet it was thought they would soon arrive at *Madras*; from whence they should hope to have, in a little while afterwards, the Money and Things mentioned in the Invoice." "That they had now convey'd to *Madras* the Journal and Conference Minutes for the latter six Months of the Year past: and intended to send Duplicates together with their Money Accounts, by the Ship which is to be dispatched

dispatched from Fort St. David's." They conclude with hearty Wishes of Success to the Society's Designs, and with a good Account of their own Health. By their Journals also we find, "that they apply themselves closely to the Work of their Mission; that they have already made great Proficiency in the *Malabarian* Language and are taking Pains to perfect a *Grammar* and *Dictionary* of it, upon a Plan of Mr. *Sartorius*; nay, that Mr. *Gueffer* is already able to preach in it, and to hold frequent Conferences with the Natives."

The Reverend Messieurs *Dal*, *Basse*, *Obuch*, *Wiedebrock*, *Kohlhoff*, *Fabricius* and *Zeylin*, Danish Missionaries at *Tranquebar*, by their Letter of 31 December 1741. signify: "That though the Ship with the Things and Benefactions sent from *England* and *Germany* was not then arrived, having met with an Accident in the Voyage, which obliged the Captain to stop by the Way; yet they were in hopes it would come soon." That hearing the *Normanton*, Captain *Remys*, was not yet arrived in *England*, they thought fit to enclose a Duplicate of a Letter dated Jan 6. 1739, 40, and sent to the Society by that Ship, to inform them, "That by God's good Providence, they have found Opportunities of making known the Gospel beyond the Kingdom of *Tanjour*, by putting into the Hands of the chief Officers of the *Mogul's* Army, the *New Testament* in *Arabick*, as well as several little Treatises in the *Tamulian* Tongue.---- That the Work of their Mission at home, and in the Country around *Tranquebar*, goes on with extraordinary Success; so that their Congregation had in the Year 1739 been increased with 738 Souls. That the new Buildings they had begun for the *Malabarian* Schools were almost finished, at an Expence of 8372 Dollars; and that they had just printed a new correct Edition of the Gospel in the *Tamulic* Language, together with a *Grammar*; to which they hoped ere long to add a new, and complete *Dictionary*."

(The Remainder in our next.)

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